



18 June 2016

RE: Organics First

Dear Toronto City Councillors on the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee,

On a recent walkthrough of a high-rise building in Ward 33 we saw a major organics bin, on a concrete slab, well maintained and away from the building.

While talking to the tenants in this building we witnessed a model for tenants and landlords working together to reduce waste. The tenants we met and the super took great pride in the fact that the building was able to recycle, reduce waste and stay clean and well maintained.

Tenants have always had a stake in both waste reduction and concern about the environment. The FMTA has been an active stakeholder in recent years with the City of Toronto. We've given input into waste reduction and policy implementation with the Multi-Res Waste Diversion Sub Committee related to recycling and waste and were a stakeholder for this plan.

Like other groups, we believe that a zero waste Toronto is necessary in 50 years. We support a Waste Strategy that includes this goal.

In our opinion the City must choose a Waste Strategy that tackles food waste first and gets organics out of the garbage bag. Otherwise, we will be dumping valuable compostable materials in landfills in communities that don't want our waste.

We believe that this is what tenants in our communities want to see as well. Tenant, as a whole, take pride in their communities and want to reach a zero waste goal – for themselves, their buildings, communities and their environment.

We hope to see you adopt a zero food waste strategy that:

- Makes education and effective communications a priority to help residents use their Green Bins properly and get organics out of the garbage bag.
- Ensures all residents have equal access to organics collection no matter where they live.
- Requires all businesses to have organics collection and plans to prevent food waste.

It's not just our City. It and our legacy belongs to our children, and our children's children.

Georgie Dent
Executive Director